

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 COME-00 INT-08

SCEM-02 SCI-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AF-10 DRC-01 /185 W
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R 051743Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9055

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 6272

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, BE

SUBJECT: PETROLEUM: BELGIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS SUPPLY NEGOTIATIONS
IATIONS

REF: BRUSSELS 6227

1. BELGIAN MINISTER FORAFFAIRS VAN ELSLADE AND MIN ECON
AFFAIRS CLAES HAVE AGREED THAT GOB WILL OPT FOR UNIFIED EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY APPROACH TO CURRENT PETROLEUM SUPPLY PROBLEM. ACCORD-
ING TO MINFORAFFAIRS OFFICIAL EC APPROACH IS NOW "FIRM POLICY".

2. GOB HAD BEEN TEMPTED BY POSSIBILITY OF CARRYING OIL PRODUCERS
FAVOR BY DISTANCING THEMSELVES FROM NETHERLANDS. AT LEAST ONE
BELGIAN MINISTER (PROBABLY MINECON AFFAIRS CLAES) PROPOSED POLICH
OF UNILATERAL APPROACH TO ARABS AND ATTEMPTED TO FLOAT THAT POLICH
BY MEANS OF SELEVTTIVE LEAKS TO LOCAL PRESS. PRESS REPORTS OF SUCH
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APPROACHES HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN OFFICIALLY DENIED. BELGIAN

ATTITUDES HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY CONTINUING MISTRUST OF NETHERLANDS STEMMING FROM 1956 OIL-SHARING PROGRAM WHEN DUTCH ALLEDGEDLY GUILTY OF MASSIVE MISREPRESENTATION OF THEIR STOCKS.

3. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO GOB IS THAT OIL PRODUCERS EMBARGO AGAINST NETHERLANDS INCLUDES ALL SHIPMENTS TO ROTTERDAM REGARDLESS OF ULTIMATE DESTINATION AND GOB IS ACTING ON THIS ASSUMPTION. (OVER 50 PERCENT OF BELGIUM'S CRUDE IMPORTS TRANSIT ROTTERDAM.)

4. DUTCH MEASURES TO LIMIT PETROLEUM CONSUMPTION RECEIVING WIDESPREAD COVERAGE IN BELGIUM. RESPONSIBLE GOB OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY MINECONAFFAIRS CLAES, BEGINNING TO PUBLICLY DISCUSS POSSIBLE NECESSITY TO IMPLEMENT VARIOUS FORMS OF RATIONING. RETAIL PRICES INCREASE LIKELY SOON AND MINISTER CLAES THREATENED TO REQUISITION ALL STOCKS IN COUNTRY IF THOSE HOLDING STOCKS (I.E. LARGE PETROLEUM COMPANIES) ATTEMPT TO PROFIT FROM EXPECTED PRICE INCREASE BY WITHHOLDING PRODUCT FROM SALE. STRAUSS-HUPF

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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